

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SOE-02
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08
DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-06
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 /150 W
-----000975 251236Z /20

R 250920Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5079
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0129

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, XF
SUBJECT: TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

REF: TRIPOLI 0094

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CON-
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ERENCE CONCLUDED ON SCHEDULE JANUARY 22. APPARENTLY
SOME 30 TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC PAPERS WERE PRESENTED.
AMONG MAIN DECISIONS WERE RECOMMENDATIONS TO USE ARAB OIL
TO PROMOTE ARAB CAUSES SUCH AS LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES AND RESTORATION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS,
CALLS FOR RAISING PRICE OF OIL TO LEVEL WHERE AL-
TERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES ARE ECONOMIC, FOR LINKING

OIL PRICES TO INDUSTRIAL IMPORT PRICES, FOR INCREASING ARAB CONTROL OVER ARAB PETROLEUM RESOURCES, AND FOR AUTOMATIC MECHANISM TO GUARANTEE STEADY OIL INCOME. CONFERENCE WAS LESS POLITICAL THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, AND CURRENT ARAB SPLIT WAS APPARENTLY IGNORED. EMBASSY HAS ACQUIRED SET OF PAPERS AND REQUESTS NAME OF OFFICE TO WHICH THEY SHOULD BE POUCHED. END SUMMARY.

1. TENTH ARAB PETROLEUM CONFERENCE CLOSED JANUARY 22. DESPITE CLAIMS THAT 60 TO 65 PAPERS WOULD BE READ, ONLY ABOUT 30 WERE PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW MANY WERE ACTUALLY PRESENTED. MAJORITY OF PAPERS WERE ON PURELY TECHNICAL (SCIENTIFIC) SUBJECTS, WITH REMAINDER FOCUSING ON ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL-ECONOMIC TOPICS SUCH AS PRICE, RELATIONS BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES, USE OF OIL REVENUE FOR DEVELOPMENT, ETC. SOME OF THE PAPERS ARE IN ARABIC ONLY. AMONG PAPERS IS ONE BY U.S. CONGRESSMAN J.M. COLLINS AND UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS ACADEMIC H.A. MERKLEIN. ENTITLED "U.S. ENERGY POLICY ALTERNATIVES," PAPER ADVOCATES DEREGULATION OF U.S. NATURAL GAS AND CRUDE OIL PRICES. LIST OF COUNTRY/INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANTS NOT AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHO PRESENTED COLLINS PAPER.

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2. THE CONFERENCE TOOK A NUMBER OF DECISIONS, MAINLY IN THE FORM OF RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY IN CONFERENCE-DOCUMENT FORM (WE ARE NOT SURE THEY WERE ISSUED AS DOCUMENT), BUT WHICH HAVE BEEN DISSEMINATED BY LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY JANA IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND REPORTED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER IN ARABIC. THE DECISIONS ARE RATHER MORE POLITICAL THAN PAPERS, BUT KEEP TO THE BUSINESS OF OIL. AS REPORTED, AND IN PART PARAPHRASED BY EMBASSY, THE CONFERENCE:

A) RECOMMENDED THAT ARAB OIL AND GAS-PRODUCING COUNTRIES SHOULD COMPLETE AND CEMENT THEIR CONTROL OVER THEIR OIL RESOURCES IN A MANNER THAT ALLOWS THEM TO MANAGE THE RESOURCES THEMSELVES AND TO PLAN THEIR EXPLOITATION IN THE BEST WAY;

B) RECOMMENDED AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL TO A LEVEL WHICH MAKES EXPLOITATION OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES ECONOMIC IN ORDER TO PUT AN END TO EXTRAVAGANCE IN CONSUMPTION OF OIL AND GAS AND SUB-

SEQUENTLY (TO ALLOW PRODUCING COUNTRIES) TO BENEFIT
FROM PROCESSING THEM;

C) ASSERTED IMPORTANCE OF LINKING OIL PRICES WITH
PRICES OF IMPORTS FROM INDUSTRIAL CONSUMING COUNTRIES
AND WITH CONDITIONS FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, SINCE
IT IS APPARENT THAT ARAB EXPORTING COUNTRIES DURING
THE PERIOD SINCE THE RECTIFICATION OF PRICES HAVE NOT
REALIZED SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE
OF SUCH LINKAGE;

D) RECOMMENDED THE PRICE OF GAS SHOULD BE LINKED
TO THE PRICE OF OIL ON THE BASIS OF CALORIC CONTENT
AND OTHER FACTORS;
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E) RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHING AN AUTOMATIC SYSTEM
FOR GUARANTEEING A STEADY COMPENSATION FOR OIL;

F) STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF DEVOTING ARAB OIL
TO THE SERVICE OF ARAB ISSUES, TOPPED BY THE LIBERA-
TION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE RESTORATION OF
THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE;

G) RECOMMENDED THE NECESSITY OF REVIEWING PRESENT
LEVELS OF OIL PRODUCTION IN THE LIGHT OF MARKET CON-
DITIONS IN ORDER TO REALIZE A REVENUE CONSISTENT WITH
DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION OF OIL RE-
SOURCES;

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H) STRESSED THE NEED TO PRODUCE AS MUCH OIL AS
POSSIBLE TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF THE ARAB CITIZEN IN
ALL FIELDS, PARTICULARLY IN TECHNOLOGY;

I) SAID THE ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD COORDINATE
THEIR PLANS WHEN CONDUCTING A DIALOGUE WITH INDUSTRI-
ALIZED COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR NEGOTIAT-
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ING POSITION TO ENABLE THEM TO ACQUIRE OIL TECHNOLOGY
ON REASONABLE TERMS IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME;

J) OBSERVED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF AN ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY SOURCE TO OIL SHOULD NOT BE LEFT ENTIRELY TO
THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, BUT ARAB SCIENTISTS
MUST ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO DO RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVES
SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY;

K) CALLED ON INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO MODERATE
THEIR INTRANSIGENT STAND TOWARDS THE JUST DEMANDS OF
THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO OFFER MORE AID TO THEM
ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY;

L) DEPLORED THE METHODS USED BY INDUSTRIAL COUN-
TRIES IN CONFRONTING THE OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES SO
AS TO WEAKEN THEM;

M) STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING RE-

LATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE WORK
FOR A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER;

N) EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH ASSISTANCE OFFERED
BY OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TO PROMOTE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES;

O) REVIEWED THE CONTINUING COOPERATION BETWEEN
ARAB OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AND OBSERVED THAT ARAB
COUNTRIES SHOULD WORK AS A UNIT IN THE FIELD OF
TRAINING RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH
FOR THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY;

P) SAID ARAB COUNTRIES SHOULD PROMOTE ARAB TECH-
NICAL CAPABILITIES IN CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING,
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PLANNING AND DESIGN OF OIL PROJECTS, AND SHOULD START
MANUFACTURING OIL EQUIPMENT;

Q) CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A PERMANENT TECHNICAL
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO COMPILE AN ARABIC OIL TECHNICAL
ENCYCLOPEDIA;

R) CALLED FOR AN INCREASE IN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
AND STUDIES, AND FOR MORE SCIENTIFIC SEMINARS,
AND URGED ARAB OIL COMPANIES TO EXCHANGE AND SECOND
MORE STAFF;

S) STRESSED THE NEED FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR
THE SPECIALIZED PETROLEUM AGENCIES BOTH IN THE ARAB
LEAGUE AND THE OAPEC, AND CONTINUED FINANCING OF
JOINT ARAB PROJECTS;

T) OBSERVED THAT SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE TO
STOP THE EMIGRATION OF ARAB BRAINS AND ENCOURAGE
THEM TO RETURN HOME.

3. MAIN BODY OF SAUDI DELEGATION, HEADED BY UNDER-
SECRETARY OF PETROLEUM, DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL THIRD
DAY OF CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO ONE REPORT FROM
TRIPOLI'S EVER-ACTIVE RUMOR MILL, DELEGATION WAS
STRANDED FOR THREE DAYS IN ROME WAITING FOR LIBYAN
VISAS. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER VERSION, DELEGATION
SIMPLY STARTED LATE BUT IGNORED LIBYA'S CURRENT BOYCOTT
OF EGYPT AND FLEW THEIR SPECIAL PLANE VIA CAIRO.
UPON ARRIVAL THEY WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN KEPT CIRCLING
ABOVE TRIPOLI UNTIL LOW FUEL REQUIRED A LANDING AND
RESOLVED THE ISSUE OF HOW THE LIBYANS SHOULD FACE
THIS VIOLATION OF BROTHERLY BOYCOTT.
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